

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 01420 170807Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 CU-02 /017 W

----- 066249

R 170618Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1102

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1420

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CVIS US QA

SUBJ: ISSUANCE OF A-2 VISAS TO ARABIAN PENINSULAR STUDENTS

REF: STATE 294704; DOHA 1400

1. APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE OF STATE REFTEL AND UNDERTAKING TO BRING QATARIS INTO WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS ON PROBLEM OF STUDENT VISAS.

2. HOWEVER, STATE REFTEL DOES NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE ANSWER TO GOQ'S MOST BURNING QUESTION TO US, I.E. WHY HAVE SAUDI AND KUWAITI STUDENTS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE A-2 VISAS DURING INTERIM STUDY PERIOD WHILE QATARIS HAVE NOT.

3. REGRET THAT "STATUS GUO" AGRUMENT FALLS SHORT SINCE IT WAS OUR, AND ALSO THE QATARIS, APPARENTLY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION THAT WHEN THIS EMBASSY STOPPED ISSUING A-2 VISAS TO STUDENTS EARLY THIS YEAR, THAT SIMILAR ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AT NEIGHBORING POSTS. UNTIL WE RECEIVED STATE 277988 JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO
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PAGE 02 DOHA 01420 170807Z

THIS CONTINUED TO BE OUR BELIEF. NOW THAT EMBASSY AND GOQ HAS

LEARNED OF THIS VARIANCE IN PRACTICE, WE ARE FACED WITH GOQ'S ACCUSATION OF DISCRIMINATION, AND THAT IS THE PRESENT PROBLEM WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO TELL THE QATARIS WE HAVE BEEN GIVING THEM THE SAME KIND OF VISAS THEY HAVE BEEN GETTING JUST WON'T WASH.

4. WE FRANKLY DO NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF STATE REFTTEL SHOULD WE RESUME ISSUING A-2S, IF ONLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD. FROM THIS SIDE, THERE WERE NO ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES IN THE CESSATION OF A-2 ISSUANCE. FURTHER, IT SEEMS ONLY FAIR THAT WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT UP WITH WHATEVER ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES THERE MAY BE TO PUT THE QATARIS BACK ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS NO MATTER FOR HOW SHORT A TIME. WE REITERATE THAT IS THE POINT OF SENSITIVITY HERE.

5. THE ONLY OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAT WE SEE THAT MIGHT SMOOTH GOQ'S RUFFLED FEATHERS IS AUTHORIZATION FOR US TO TELL THE GOQ THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE A-2 VISAS WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED TO ANY STUDENT FROM THIS AREA, BUT THAT WE ARE WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE QATARI EMBASSY AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON TO COME UP WITH A SUBSTITUTE SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED, AND WHICH WILL BE UNIFORMLY APPLIED BY ALL GULF POSTS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
PAGANELLI

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